



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
United States Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 8, 2010

USAO Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc

Woman Sentenced in Connection With Credit Card Scheme - *She Allowed Her Residence To Be Used For Delivery Of Merchandise Obtained By Fraud* -

WASHINGTON - LaKisha C. Williams, 34, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today by the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy Jr., United States District Court Judge, to five years of probation, restitution of \$5,277, and 90 hours of community service in connection with her role in a stolen credit card scheme, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, beginning in 2005 a number of individuals conspired to steal the identifying information of numerous people, use that information to illegally obtain credit accounts, and use those accounts to acquire merchandise and pay for services and D.C. parking tickets.

In connection with the scheme, one of the co-conspirators enlisted Williams to permit her District of Columbia residential address to be used for the receipt of packages shipped from various third-party vendors. The packages contained assorted merchandise purchased with fraudulent credit accounts. Between approximately August 2009 and March 2010, Williams obtained aggregate credit available of approximately \$35,500 and effected transactions to obtain merchandise and services valued at approximately \$5,277.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Secret Service, Metropolitan Police Department and District of Columbia Inspector General's Office.

Four others previously pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with the investigation. They are: Renarda Gail Robinson Miller, 48, of Washington, D.C., Dionne Witherspoon 36, of Washington, D.C., Kimberly Hatton, 44, of Washington, D.C., and Peeair Bassil, 44, of Washington, D.C. Sentencing dates have not yet been scheduled in those cases.

The case serves as a reminder that consumers are encouraged to check their credit reports annually to ensure that credit histories are accurate. They can obtain free copies of their credit reports by contacting www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

At any time, if an unauthorized account or charges are discovered, consumers should

contact the issuing credit card company or bank to report the fraud. In addition, a fraud alert can be placed on the individual's credit file. A fraud alert can help prevent an identity thief from opening accounts in another person's name.

In announcing the sentence today, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of D.C. Office of Inspector General Special Agent Bernadette Todd Atwater, Postal Inspector Dean Davis, U.S. Secret Service Special Agent Chris Macomber, and MPD Detective Michael Pavero, as well as the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Carolyn Cody. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the cases.

10-268

###